

# Harper's Weekly

"TO CARE FOR HIM WHO HAS BORNE THE BATTLE, AND FOR HIS WIDOW AND ORPHANS."

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## SAVING THE NATION.

The First Campaign Against Vicksburg.

MURPHY'S COWARDICE.

Gen. Sherman's Repulse at Chickasaw Bayou.

ARKANSAS POST.

A Brilliant Victory Follows the Disaster.

BY "ALBERT GREEN."

TO THE DEPT. OF THE UNITED STATES.

The order issued by the War Department Oct. 24, 1862, appointing Rosecrans to succeed Buell, also appointed Gen. Grant Commander in Chief of the Department of the Mississippi. He had 45,000 men, but they were very much scattered. Several thousand were needed to protect the railroad over which he received his supplies. There was so much going on in Virginia and Kentucky that the War Department had not time to give much attention to affairs in the West, and Gen. Grant was therefore left to do his own planning.

THE WORK TO BE DONE.

The next great work to be done was the taking of Vicksburg. The great question was how to accomplish it. The Confederates were making it stronger every day—planting more cannon, building intrenchments, and resolving to hold it at all hazards. If the Union troops were to capture it the States of Arkansas, Texas and Louisiana would be severed from the remainder of the Confederacy. It would be a crushing blow.

You remember the battle of Pea Ridge, in Northwestern Arkansas—the defeat of the Confederates under Van Dorn. After that battle there was no Confederate force to oppose Gen. Curtis.

We have seen how the troops under Van Dorn were hastened to Corinth, where they were defeated by Rosecrans. Gen. Curtis, therefore, marched east to capture Little Rock, but his provisions failed. He had to put the troops on half rations and hasten towards the Mississippi. He reached it at Helena, below Memphis, where the steamboats supplied him with food.

GEN. GRANT'S ARMY.

The Union troops were widely scattered. Four thousand were at Columbus in Kentucky, from whence Gen. Grant's army received its supplies. He was obliged to station bodies of soldiers at every bridge and along the road to prevent the guerrillas from destroying it. Gen. Sherman was in Memphis with a portion of the troops, 50 miles east of Memphis and 40 west of Corinth. Twenty-five miles south of Grand Junction is Holly Springs, on the railroad leading to New Orleans. Going south from Holly Springs, we come to the Tallahatchie River, which runs northeast and empties into the Yazoo, which empties into the Mississippi 12 miles above Memphis. The Yazoo is navigable for steamboats.

It was up this river that the Confederates completed the ram Arkansas. The Yazoo winds through the broad bottom lands east of the Mississippi, which spread out very wide between Memphis and Vicksburg. The bluffs, which touch the river at Memphis and Vicksburg, are 50 miles east of the river opposite Helena. The railroad is on the table-land east of the bluffs. There are no towns in the bottom lands, only plantations, but along the railroad are Abbeville, Grenada, and other towns.

POSITION OF THE CONFEDERATE ARMY.

After the defeat of Van Dorn at Corinth, Jefferson Davis appointed Gen. Pemberton to command the Confederate army. Pemberton was at Jackson, the Capital of Mississippi, and Van Dorn in command of the troops along the Tallahatchie. Van Dorn had 24,000 men; there were 6,000 at Vicksburg, nearly 6,000 more at Port Hudson, with other troops, giving him in all 40,000.

GEN. GRANT'S PLAN.

Gen. Grant saw that a movement from Grand Junction along the railroad would bring the army in rear of Vicksburg, which would compel the Confederates to evacuate that place. He moved south along the railroad. Gen. Sherman moved from Memphis Nov. 24, 1862. Gen. Hovey, with a portion of the troops at Helena, crossed the Mississippi and marched east through the bottom lands, all three detachments moving towards Van Dorn, who retreated from the Tallahatchie southward, and took up a new position behind the Yalishusha River, another branch of the Yazoo.

Van Dorn's cavalry were out in front of the Union armies. There was constant skirmishing. Every hour you might have heard the crack of rifles. But there was no battle; Van Dorn was not strong enough to attack.

Gen. Grant reached Oxford, 60 miles south of Grand Junction. Gen. Sherman was near him, at College Hill. They were 10 miles from their base of supplies. All their flour and beef must be brought from Columbus over a single track. There were so few locomotives on the railroad that they would not do the business. Gen. Grant asked for more engines, but the War Department, for some reason, did not supply them. He saw that if he went much farther he would not be able to feed the army. He decided to change his plan.

THE SECOND PLAN.

He consulted with Gen. Sherman, and decided that Gen. Sherman should march back to Memphis, put his army on a set of steamboats, hasten down the river, ascend the Yazoo a short distance, and attack Vicksburg in the rear, while he, with the rest of the army, would march from Oxford and join him. When united it would be a powerful army, which would receive its supplies by steamboats.

JEFF DAVIS HASTENS TO VICKSBURG.

The Confederate authorities in Richmond saw the great danger which threatened the Confederacy, and President Davis hastened West, taking Gen. Joseph E. Johnston with him, appointing him commander of all the troops between the Mississippi and the Alleghenies. He visited Jackson and Vicksburg, and cheered the Confederate troops. New recruits were coming by the thousands to the Confederate armies, gathered in by the conscript officers, who compelled everybody they

could find to join the army. They did not make new regiments, but filled up the old.

GEN. FOREST'S RAID.

We come to Dec. 11. Gen. Grant is at Murfreesboro; Rosecrans at Nashville, laying his plans. Gen. Grant has nearly 10,000 cavalry. He sees a grand opportunity to cripple Gen. Grant, by destroying the railroad over which he receives his supplies, and sends Gen. Forrest to do the work.

On the morning of the 11th Forrest leaves Columbia, Tenn., south of Nashville, moving west.

The Union scouts bring word to Rosecrans, who before then sends this dispatch to Gen. Grant: "Tell the authorities along the road to look out for Forrest."

Gen. Forrest pushes west to the Tennessee, reaches it at Clifton, crosses it on an old flat-boat—swimming his horses. He has 2,500 men. Twenty miles west of the river he comes upon Col. R. G. Ingersoll, commanding 700 Union cavalry, who has two cannon. Ingersoll and more than 200 of his men are captured, the rest put to flight. Forrest had a skirmish with two regiments near Jackson. But he had not come to fight. He turns north, reaches the railroad, captures all the small stations, burns bridges, tears up the track, moving north to the Kentucky line, then turning south once more toward Lexington.

At Parker's Cross-roads, not far from Lexington, Tenn., he is confronted by Gen. Sallivan, sent by Gen. Grant with two brigades to cut off his retreat.

It is the last day of the year. The great battle of Stone's River is going on. At the same hour, in the forenoon, Forrest begins a battle with one of Sullivan's Brigades, slowly driving it before him, but the second brigade arrives, striking Forrest in the rear, putting him to rout with a loss of six guns, 300 men and several wagons; but he reached the river, crossed it as before, and escaped. He had done great damage—destroyed 60 miles of the railroad and killed, wounded and captured nearly 2,000 Union troops.

On Dec. 19 Grant's communications were cut off; nor could he receive any supplies until the road was repaired.

VAN DORN'S RAID.

But Grant was to receive a more disastrous blow. Van Dorn had 3,500 cavalry. He knew that Gen. Grant's supplies were at Holly Springs, where there was a brigade under Gen. Murphy. The Union cavalry was 40 miles away, destroying the Mobile & Ohio Railroad. Now was his opportunity. Putting himself at the head of his cavalry, he started from Grenada and made a night march around Gen. Grant. It is Dec. 19, the hour when Forrest is striking the railroad north, in Tennessee—the hour when Sherman is starting from Memphis to go down the river.

"Be prepared for Confederate cavalry and hold your position at all hazards," is the dispatch sent by Grant to Murphy at Holly Springs and to the commander at Grand Junction.

Murphy has 1,500 men guarding the supplies piled up in the depot and surrounding buildings. At daylight the next morning Van Dorn is upon him and the poor, weak, cowardly Murphy, almost without firing, weakly, cowardly surrenders his whole command. A few minutes later at Helena, Gen. Sherman's cavalry had been defeated by Van Dorn's cavalry, and the Union army was in a bad way.

You will be glad to know that Murphy was court-martialed, disgraced and dismissed from the service as a traitor.

Van Dorn attacked a small body of Union troops at Davis's Mills and was repulsed. He advanced to Bolivar and was driven off by the brave men there. He was repulsed by the Union troops at Helena, and the Union army was in a bad way.

A great fleet of steamboats, with the Divisions of Gen. A. J. Smith, Morgan L. Smith, and George W. Morgan, came down from Memphis and descended the Mississippi, to be joined at Helena by Gen. Sherman's Division, making an army of 32,000 with 60 cannon. It was a magnificent sight. There were 67 steamboats crowded with men, who clustered on the decks looking upon a live. In advance came the gunboats.

Twenty miles above Vicksburg Gen. A. J. Smith's Division landed on the west side of the river, marched southwest and reached the railroad, over which the cars were bringing provisions to Vicksburg. The bridges were burned and the track destroyed. The steamboats went on to the mouth of the Yazoo, burned the railroad, and sailed up that stream 13 miles. The troops landed beneath the great cottonwood trees on the bottom lands. The troops of A. J. Smith's Division landed on the west side of the river, marched southwest and reached the railroad, over which the cars were bringing provisions to Vicksburg.

Gen. Sherman knew very little about the ground before him, or the Confederate forts and rifle-pits. He only knew that the Walnut Hills, as the bluffs above Vicksburg are called, were lined with forts and rifle-pits and breastworks, and that the Confederates had been constructed to prevent the Union troops from approaching the city from the rear. But he knew that just what Gen. McClernand intended to do—or, rather, he intended to place his troops so that the Confederates could not escape, while the gunboats silenced the guns in the fort.

Before sunset the gunboats steamed to a storm of shot and shells upon it that the Confederates were driven to silence. At one o'clock the next day, however, before the troops were all in position.

On the afternoon of Jan. 9, the gunboats dropped anchor three miles below the fort, and the troops landed on the north bank. Gen. McClernand divided his army into two divisions, one under Gen. Morgan, consisting of Morgan's and A. J. Smith's Divisions; the other under Gen. Sherman, who had Steele's and Stuart's (formerly M. L. Smith's) Divisions.

Gen. Sherman's troops landed first and marched along the bank of the river, followed by Morgan's men. Gen. Lindsay, with one brigade, landed on the south side of the river, marched up the bend and put his batteries in position to prevent the Confederates from retreating up the river.

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diens firing into the dense thicket, but seeing very few of the Confederates.

Gen. De Courcy deployed his brigade,—the 22d Ky. on the right, then the 54th Ind., 42d Ohio, and 16th Ohio. Foster's battery opened fire. It was nearly 9:30.

Gen. De Courcy gives the order to advance, and the troops move forward, driving the Confederates. The troops gave a hurrah, dashed through the woods, driving the Confederates, who fled across the bayou.

The troops halted and the Engineers once more reconnoitered the ground. They saw that the Confederates had slashed down the trees on the other side of the stream, and that every approach was enfiladed by cannon. The soldiers hunkered where they were, waiting till night, that the Engineers might build a pontoon bridge. It was laid during the night. The road along which the troops were to advance was only an old path. It was covered with fallen trees. When morning came the Engineers discovered that beyond the old path, beyond which the ground sloped upward towards the bluffs, it was a half mile from the place where the troops passed the night to the out of the bluff. Every step of the way they would be exposed to the fire of the Confederates.

Down on the right Morgan L. Smith very early in the morning was wounded, and the command devolved upon Gen. Stuart. The troops of the two divisions made a show of advancing, while De Courcy's and Blair's Brigades were to make the real attack. The regiments of the two brigades were formed in columns to narrow to cross the log bridge. The 16th Ohio leads the column. Blair's Brigade was on the left, ready to cross the first bayou.

The signal is given, and the two columns emerge from the shelter of the woods. In an instant the Confederate batteries flame, sending down a terrible storm of shells. The troops cross the bayou and the woods, in a terrible tempest that bursts upon them. Men fall by the score. Canister from the batteries sweeps them down. Six regiments of Confederates, resting on the bluffs, open their guns, and taking deliberate aim, cut them in pieces. On, almost up to the trenches, rushes the 16th Ohio, till half the men are disabled. It can go no farther. It wavers. The men stop, and the rest of the day they were in the hands of the Confederates. The other regiments are in confusion and the order to retire is given. In the few moments more than 1,000 men have been killed, wounded or captured by the Confederates. They have their intrenchments and gather in those who cannot get away.

Going down to the right, we see the 6th Mo. leading the advance, and so close so narrow that only two soldiers can stand abreast. They bluff rises sharp and steep above them. They reach the foot of the bluff, throw themselves under the shelter of the bank, and wait for reinforcements; but no other troops follow. To make their shelter complete they dig holes in the bluff, scraping out the dirt with their hands, lying there till night and then retreating.

Gen. Sherman, seeing how useless it was to make a second attack, decided to send 10,000 men up the Yazoo to Haines's Bluff. The gunboats were to take up the morning cannon, but the fog was thick, and the gunboats could not move. Rain was falling in torrents. It was seen that the river might suddenly rise, flood the low lands and drown the army. Gen. Sherman consulted with his officers, who advised the abandonment of the undertaking.

A flag of truce went out and the ambulances came to the scene. The scene was a sad, disheartening spectacle. The expedition was a failure, and nearly 2,000 brave soldiers had been sacrificed.

Up the Mississippi stepped the fleet to Milliken's Bend, where the soldiers disembarked on the Arkansas shore, landing Jan. 2, at the same hour that Breckinridge was being repulsed and the Union troops winning the victory at Stone's River.

ARKANSAS POST.

There was a fort on the Arkansas River at Arkansas Post, garrisoned by 5,000 Confederate troops, named Fort Hindman. It was located at a bend in the river and was built of earth. The Confederates had mounted two-inch and one-inch cannon, and 14 pieces of field artillery.

Gen. McClernand arrived at Milliken's Bend and took command of the army, bringing news of what had happened at Holly Springs and the falling back of Gen. Grant to Grand Junction.

The troops ought not to remain idle; the army should be doing something. What was the purpose of the expedition? These were the thoughts that flashed through Gen. Sherman's ever active mind. Gen. McClernand gladly engaged the two regiments. Once more the troops went on board the steamboats, ascended the Mississippi to the mouth of White River, then turned into a cut-off which wound through the bottom lands, over which the cars were bringing provisions to Vicksburg. The bridges were burned and the track destroyed. The steamboats went on to the mouth of the Yazoo, burned the railroad, and sailed up that stream 13 miles. The troops landed beneath the great cottonwood trees on the bottom lands. The troops of A. J. Smith's Division landed on the west side of the river, marched southwest and reached the railroad, over which the cars were bringing provisions to Vicksburg.

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## MAX STEINER.

The Adventures of a German Boy During the War.

A GALLANT SUABIAN.

The American War's Echoes in the German Alps.

MOURNING FOR GARFIELD.

Twining the Stars and Stripes With the Imperial Colors.

BY ALBERT GREEN.

It was in May, 1861. The war news in America had reached the interior of Continental Europe, and was for the first time being discussed by the country folk in the mountains of South Germany, near the old Castle of Ulm in the Suabian Alps, three hours' ride by the post-coach from the nearest railroad station. The mail had brought the news of the attack on Fort Sumter, its hopeless defense and humiliating surrender and the first wild paroxysm of war that had burst forth across the sea in another hemisphere. As the tidings spread, the villagers gathered in the street, the tradesman left his shop, the craftsman his bench, the blacksmith his forge, and Christian Maier read the papers to the motley crowd. Chris was an old soldier, but he had served in the campaigns of the first Napoleon, but as he read the martial order of his youthful days came back to him, and his wrinkled face glowed with the memory of march and siege, of rushing hosts and the grand whirlwind of battle. "Ah," said he, when he had finished, "if these old limbs were young again, how quickly would I go where glory calls the young and brave!" Here Max Steiner, who was as he bore the standard now, two days later Max Steiner, acting on the hint of the old soldier, bade adieu to mother and sister and little sweetheart Katarina, and last of all called to the old Christian Maier, and said farewell forever. "God bless you, my boy, and bring you safely back again, when the war is ended, to the Fatherland," said old Chris, his voice choking with emotion.

"Cannot you go, too?" said Max; "your presence would be worth a thousand men." "Nay, my lad, I could not do a soldier's duty; if I go with you in spirit will it not be enough?"

Max could not say a word, but hurried away as the old man refused him. A week later, when the vessel sailed, there was another passenger, Max Steiner going out from the little port, but it is not my purpose to give the ship's log.

Chris Maier was a great favorite in the village. Without family or living kindred, he was welcomed at every table and hearthstone, and the softest bed in every cottage was his without asking. He had the best eat at banquets, and his health was pledged in the first glass and the last. He was invited to every dance, and though his dancing days were over, he received more bouquets than the gayest youngster. He nursed the sick, buried the dead, and the ladies named after him; and many a young man in the neighborhood, in return for the help he assumed the guardianship of the place; was mayor, police and council all in one; carried a stick for roughs, quelled rising brawls, and settled all disputes by his quick judgment, without the intervention of counsel, court or jury. In the narrow circle of that mountain glen he was in law the highest authority, in religion the oracle, and in all things an unquestioned encyclopaedia.

It was the Fourth of July. All over the North the drums were beating for volunteers and the national colors were being set up, and the nation was rejoicing for another and a greater revolution. The nation was struggling in the throes of a mighty war for the national life. There were no empty encores, no flights of finished rhetoric. All was hurry and bustle and anxiety under the black pall of war.

In a small town in Central Illinois they were raising a company of infantry, and as each volunteer steeled his heart to the great sacrifice and stepped out from the group of his family and friends the wife, mother and sweetheart were drowned in the cheers of his comrades as his name was entered and the roll of honor made up.

"Who will be the next to come where glory calls?" said the recruiting officer, and as he spoke a full-faced youth stepped to the front and gave his name and repeated it to the clerk, who failed to understand at first the foreign accent. "Max Steiner, aged 19 years."

The company was full to the maximum and its officers of every grade had been chosen, but there was an empty place in the ranks. The ladies presented to the boys a silk flag made by their own hands, and bade them to return it without dishonor when white-winged Peace should come again.

And then they marched away to do and die for their country. There was one in the throng who said not a word, but waved a handkerchief and shed scalding tears until the last soldier had disappeared down the dusty road.

Over the captured ramparts of Fort Donelson that flag waved; through the varying fortunes of Shiloh it advanced, wavering, fell back, and advanced to stay. It went down before the foe on the bloody field of Chickamauga; but only for a moment, for another standard bearer caught it up, and as he fell another, and then the "girl soldier," Max Steiner, snatched it from the dying hand and waved it defiantly in the face of the oncoming enemy. Of that proud company but 30 answered the roll-call that night, and as the orderly called the names of those gone, the answer followed—"Dead," that his country may live.

Every commissioned officer every Sergeant, all but two Corporals and 30 men had been either killed, wounded or missing. At the furious charge by the rebels on Fort Robinet at the battle of Corinth, Oct. 4, 1862, Max Steiner was severely wounded, and as he laid on the gory field, amidst the roar of cannon and the rattle of musketry, his thoughts wandered back to his distant home across the sea. He imagined that he saw the eyes of his mother resting tenderly upon him as they used to do in his early boyhood days. But the cheers of victory woke him out of his dreams and he found him in the field hospital.

Of the ministering angels that followed the

army without recompense or reward, "to bear away the wounded and cover up the dead," it is not now my purpose to write; but they were here, and their services were none the less meritorious than the man who sprang to close the gap where death passed through. In the organization of the regiment Max Steiner was made Lieutenant, and on Sherman's march to the sea he was promoted to Captain.

The affectionate nickname that had followed him from the day of his enlistment was perpetuated by the remnant of his early comrades in the "Girl Captain," and in his new position he was as popular as he had been in the ranks. No soldier but faced as well as he, and every ounce of ration due his men they received; every peril, every sacrifice, every vicissitude was the common lot of all, and in the hour of victory they shared a common joy.

Savannah reached, the South-Atlantic States restored, the Capital of the Confederacy captured, Lee's army paroled and sent home, the victorious legions of the Union marched down Pennsylvania Avenue, in the City of Washington, 200,000 strong, and presented a country saved from dissolution to the President of the United States.

From Washington the regiment was ordered to Louisville, Ky., and right there the company presented to Max Steiner a fine sword and belt, on which was engraved: "Presented to our Captain by the members of Co. D, 9th Ill. M'D Inf. Louisville, Ky., June 28, 1865."

Then Max Steiner thought of his old German home and old Christian Maier and the dear kindred near the Castle of Ulm, and decided to return to them. His company followed him to Springfield, and on the day of his departure presented him the silk flag the Illinois regiment had given them four years before, and begged him to accept it as a token of their love for him and his people. And so Max took the battle-torn and blood-stained flag and laid it with his uniform so proudly worn on Southern battle-fields. With these trophies he bade the boys good-by and sailed away.

The villagers gathered around the post-coach as it rolled up to the Hotel of the Eagle, to hear the latest news from the American war; for Max had written frequent letters, and these had added to the interest of the people until they had come to feel the cause their own. In the crowd stood Christian Maier, and when the coach door opened and Max Steiner stepped out, they recognized each other in a moment. This was not to be wondered at in Max, for save a tremor in his voice, Chris Maier had changed not a hair, but Max himself had changed. He was no more the fair-faced lad, but a bronzed veteran, mustached, and haughty in his bearing, as soldiers are.

It was no time for speeches, so they embraced and shook each other by the hand most cordially, and then, linked arm-in-arm, strolled away. The next day the town was wild with joy at the "boy's" return, and that night a gay party filled the halls of the Hotel of the Eagle, and Max Steiner was the lion of the hour.

When the guests were all assembled and the musicians were tuning up their fiddles for the "Star" called attention, and said: "My friends, you know the story of my wanderings, and I have with pleasure your generous praise at the honors I have won; but Chris Maier is the man who made